

In the event elastic seals or O-rings are utilized, for example, to absorb shock where the hatches are very heavy and/or frequently slammed shut, it is preferred that one or more vents be cut through the container so as to allow the circulation of fresh air. Air circulation is preferred to prevent mildew and rot. Since humid air rises relative to dry air, it is preferred that such vents be cut or drilled up through the bottom of the container or in the sides of the container near or at the bottom surface. Of course, a bottom surface will only be accessible when the unit is wall-mounted as opposed to mounted on a shelf. Where fresh air is critical, it may be desirable to provide such vents whether the hatches are hermetically sealed or not. To ensure uniformity of humidity, it is advisable to provide such vents at or near the humidifier so that the unit may humidify the fresh air before it comes in contact with the contents of the humidor. The curved surfaces depicted on the hatches in the figures are for esthetic purposes and are purely optional.

Referring now to FIG. 2, there is provided positioning means 9 for storing the contents of the container 1 in a substantially vertical position. For the purposes of this disclosure, "substantially vertical" means generally no more than 45 degrees from vertical, preferably no more than 30 degrees from vertical, more preferably no more than 15 degrees from vertical, and still more preferably no more than 10 degrees from vertical. FIG. 2 shows an open box or small container 10 containing the product resting 10 degrees from vertical back upon the positioning means 9 with the opening of the box facing a transparent surface 2. A preferred positioning means as shown comprises a series of strips or other perforated surface that permits the free flow of humid air within the container while providing adequate support. This is easily achieved by providing a plank of, for example, cedar wood cut in cross-section as shown in FIG. 2 and drilled through with multiple holes or perforations (not shown). Alternatively, strips of wood or other material may be cut in cross-section as shown and mounted at spaced intervals. The objective is to position the product so as to permit effective viewing through the transparent surfaces 2 and, further, to position the product so that it may be grasped laterally and removed horizontally from the container.

In a preferred embodiment, internal lighting 11 is also provided so as to effectively illuminate the product. Fluorescent lighting is preferred over incandescent lighting because the latter generates heat. Vapor-sealed lighting is preferred over non-sealed lighting in that the former is protected from the relatively high levels of humidity. Also preferred, when fluorescent lighting is used, are filters that screen out ultraviolet radiation that could otherwise damage organic products stored in the humidor. Such filters are commercially available from Environmental Lighting Systems, 485 Bergen Avenue, Ridgely, N.J. 07657 and sold under the tradename "Spectrum Lighting Filters."

Referring to FIG. 3, there is depicted another embodiment of the invention having a container 1 of elongated vertical dimension suitable for mounting upon a wall. Multiple tiers of support means 9 are provided. This embodiment is desirable for restaurant, tobacco shop, and other settings where floor space is at a premium. This particular embodiment may be constructed to comprise many tiers spread out over wide horizontal and high horizontal dimensions without intruding upon valuable floor space.

Because this embodiment is larger, it is preferred that the hatches be rabbeted to the container frame and/or have an elastic seal or o-ring to prevent humidity leakage, since the humidifier will need to replace a large volume of spilled air after each opening and closing. This will require a vent to be

drilled into the container, preferably up through the bottom of the container. A preferred wall-mounted unit will not extend all the way to the floor (making floor space available for seated patrons), such that an accessible bottom surface will be available and exposed to air.

In this and all embodiments of elongated height, it is preferred that the humidifier be placed near the bottom of the container, so as to permit the humid air to rise upward.

Changes and modifications can be made by those skilled in the art to the embodiments as disclosed herein and such examples, illustrations, and theories are for explanatory purposes and are not intended to limit the scope of the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A humidor comprising:

a container having a height, width, and depth; means for controlling the humidity within said container; said container having one or more transparent surfaces permitting viewing of the interior thereof; said container having means for lateral access to the contents therein; and means for positioning a plurality of cigars in said container in a substantially vertical manner and position so as to permit effective viewing through said one or more transparent surfaces; wherein the depth and height of said container is substantially smaller than said width.

2. The invention of claim 1 wherein:

said container is adapted to placement upon a barshelf.

3. The invention of claim 2 wherein said container is no more than 16 inches in height.

4. The invention of claim 1 wherein said container is no more than 16 inches in depth.

5. The invention of claim 1 wherein said container further comprises means for controlling the temperature therein.

6. The invention of claim 1 wherein said container further comprises a control panel section having controls accessible from outside said container for controlling the environment within said container.

7. The invention of claim 1 further comprising lights for illuminating the contents of said container.

8. The invention of claim 1 wherein said cigars are positioned and displayed so as to be tilted no more than 30 degrees from vertical.

9. The invention of claim 1 further comprising:

one or more small open containers placed within said container; and

means for positioning said small open containers such that the openings thereof are in a substantially vertical position and effectively viewed through said transparent surfaces so as to permit viewing of the contents thereof.

10. The invention of claim 9 wherein said small open containers are adapted to holding tobacco products.

11. A humidor comprising:

a container having a height, width, and depth; means for controlling the humidity within said container; said container having one or more transparent surfaces permitting viewing of the interior thereof; said container having means for lateral access to the contents therein;

wherein the depth of said container is substantially smaller than said width; and

means for mounting said humidor upon a wall such that a bottom surface of said container is readily accessible to surrounding air.

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12. The humidor of claim 11 wherein said bottom surface has one or more vents therethrough permitting air to enter said container.

13. The invention of claim 11 further comprising:

means for positioning a plurality of cigars, or boxes 5
containing cigars, in said container in a substantially vertical manner and position so as to permit effective viewing through said one or more transparent surfaces.

14. The invention of claim 11 wherein said container further comprises means for controlling the temperature 10
therein.

15. The invention of claim 11 wherein said container further comprises a control panel section having controls

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accessible from outside said container for controlling the environment within said container.

16. The invention of claim 11 further comprising lights for illuminating the contents of said container.

17. The invention of claim 16 wherein said lighting is fluorescent and filtered through an ultraviolet screen lighting filter.

18. The invention of claim 7 wherein said lighting is fluorescent and filtered through an ultraviolet screen lighting filter.

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